

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
documentary days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation  
when used to  
promote partisan  
political  
objectives. The net  
effect of such  
corporate behavior  
is an alarming  
degradation of the  
democratic electoral  
process within our  
country when we are,  
ostensibly, engaged  
abroad (in  
Afghanistan and Iraq  
critically) in  
promoting and  
fostering this  
process as an emblem  
of our "freedom" and  
way of life.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and is  
obligated by law to  
serve the public  
interest. But when  
large companies  
control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy. Instead  
of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter. As our  
founding fathers,  
Jefferson notably,  
were aware, the  
success of  
democratic  
government depends  
entirely on an  
ongoing informed  
electorate making  
free decisions about

the issues that directly affect their lives, their work, their education, and, above all, their trust in our form of government.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I assure that if Sinclair is permitted to force the airing of this television ad through its network of tv stations without comparable time given to rebuttal of its fabricated claims I will join all local and national efforts to deny Sinclair and its affiliate stations relicensing to abuse our public-trust airwaves. Thank you,  
Dale S Johnson.